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GENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT N

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COUNTRY USER (Turkmen SSR)

DATE DISTR.

28 Apr. 1950

SUBJECT Obs

Observations and Rumors Concerning the Earthquake near Ashkhabad

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SUPPLEMENT TO

- Large formations, one of 70 to 80 four-engine planes heading southwest, flew over MAKHACH KALA (47 29° E/43 N) in 1948, at dates which could not exactly be recalled.
- 2. According to Soviets, these flights were connected with emergency measures undertaken to relieve the earthquake-efflicted area of Turkmenistan, mainly the town of ASHKHABAD (55022° 7/37057° 1). The catastrophe was said to have caused 45,000 fatclities.

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Comment:

Boviet information on the ASHAHABADerrthquake on 7 October 1948 stated:

- a. There were numerous fatalities (less report)
- b. 6,226 injured persons were evecuated and foodstuffs were shipped to the place of accident by every means of transportation (Redio MOSCOW on 9 October 1948).

It seems possible that multi-engine planes were employed for relief. Reuters reported from ZURICH that, on 5 Cetober 1948, strong explosions were registered which might have been connected with the detonation of atom bombs.

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